

Fifth Place: Stacey Isidro

If I Were a Golf Pro, What a Difference I Would Make

If I were a golf pro, I would introduce the world of golf to children. I would expose the new generation to a wonderful sport of discipline, skill, and patience to help enrich their lives.

As a golf pro, I would commence a new program named GOLF: Golf Opportunities for the Less Fortunate. GOLF would be an after-school activity developed for students who would otherwise have no access to golf. The mission of GOLF is to promote the sport of golf while teaching important life morals. Each school participating in this program would have a piece of land dedicated to a putting green and mini driving range for the children. I would give one hour group sessions supplemented by individual attention with assistance from volunteers who have knowledge and experience in golf. In addition to giving golf lessons to the children, I would have the children manage their own golf course at school. The highlight of GOLF is the Children's Golf Course. Students would elect a manager, maintenance crew, financial department, golf officials, and a committee to coordinate the golf tournament schedule. This exercise teaches the students to be responsible, dedicated, honest, and patient. It also develops interpersonal and communication skills as the children interact with each other. Every day after school, the children will meet at the Children's Golf Course. Golf equipment and healthy snacks will be provided for all students. Golf lessons integrate fun interactive games as the children practice on the putting green and mini driving range. For example, today's topic is "How to Correctly Putt." A fun activity to practice putting would be to create a straight line of golf balls perpendicular to the hole and spaced at equal intervals away from the hole. The object of the game is to get as many golf balls in the hole while practicing correct stance, speed, direction, and alignment.

The Children's Golf Course would only be available during school days. On weekends and during the summer, the members of GOLF would gain exclusive access to city golf courses. City golf courses managed by golf pros would have the GOLF program available at specified times during the day. In addition, the GOLF program at the city golf course would not only be open to the students who participate in GOLF at school, but also to their parents and siblings because the GOLF program encourages the entire family to participate. Because GOLF is targeted towards the less fortunate, many services are offered for those who join. Services include golf tournaments, golf clinics, golf events, free golf lessons, use of golf facilities, golf sets donated by sponsors, and golf scholarships. The plethora of aid at GOLF is available for those who are involved in the sport of golf.

If I were a golf pro, I would encourage the children of Houston to join GOLF so that through their exposure in golf, they will continue to make good decisions in life!